



Newsletter

November 2012

Dignity & St. Ignatius Liturgy Schedules

Ravenna United Methodist Church	5751-33 rd Ave NE	Seattle
Every Sunday	→ 10:00 a.m.	St. Ignatius (UPSTAIRS)
Nov. 11, Dec. 9	→ 6:00 p.m.	Dignity/Seattle

A pancake breakfast following St. Ignatius Mass is held every 4th Sunday (Nov. 23rd), a shared fellowship with our host congregation, Ravenna UMC.

Marriage Equality Approved in Washington State!

November 6, 2012

Dear Amazing Friends,

On this election night, our hearts are filled with love and gratitude.

In February, the Washington State Catholic Conference and Washington State Catholic bishops began to actively campaign against civil marriage for same sex couples. A small group of us, compelled by their actions, dreamed of uniting Catholics throughout our State who support civil marriage for all couples who love each other and want to make a lifetime commitment before family, friends and the State.

We believed it was important to remind our fellow Catholics of something our Church has long taught: on the issue of marriage equality, and all moral issues, we must ultimately follow our own conscience in deciding how to vote. As faithful Catholics we are bound to educate our conscience through prayer, reading of the scriptures, and listening to the Holy Spirit who continues to speak in our midst.

We, along with the majority of Catholics in Washington State, believe in marriage equality and wanted to make sure that our Catholic voices were heard. Motivated by the gospel message, a message of love and inclusivity, we decided to place ads in Washington State newspapers listing the names of 1,000 Catholics who supported Referendum 74.

We accomplished that and a great deal more in the last few months **because of you!** Your donations, willingness to volunteer and your courage to take a public stand made it possible to accomplish the following:

- We established a website and a Facebook page with 2,400 "likes";
- We distributed over 1,000 CFMEWA buttons;
- We recruited volunteers who supported marriage equality in parishes around Washington State;
- We marched with over 200 Catholics in the Seattle Gay Pride Parade;

- We wrote Op-ed pieces for the *Seattle Times*, the *Tacoma News Tribune* and *The Spokesman Review*, and sent letters-to-editors in publications like the *Walla Walla Union Bulletin*, *Tri City Herald*, *Yakima Herald Republic* and the *Skagit Valley Herald*;
- We encouraged a very talented local writer whose powerful stories on Senator Debbie Regala, Representative Maureen Welsh, and Senator Ed Murray—were published both locally and nationally;
- We participated in several Washington United for Marriage phone banks;
- We held prayer services at the Cathedrals in Yakima and Seattle [see story on p. 3].
- And when our bishops published bulletins based on fear and misinformation, we published alternative bulletins (in English and Spanish) based on Gospel values of love and family that you distributed to fellow-parishioners, family members and friends;
- Over 1,000 of you from all over our State signed a full page *Catholics for Marriage Equality* ad that appeared in the *Seattle Times*, *The Spokesman Review*, *The Herald* in Everett, *the Yakima Herald Republic* and *The Seattle Gay News*.

All this, we accomplished with no office and no paid staff. You shared your stories with us, your heartbreak at being alienated from the Catholic Church because of your sexual identity, your longings for your LGBT children who feel excluded from the Church, and your longings for a Catholic Church that truly lives out Jesus' gospel of love and inclusion. You have been our inspiration.

Nine months later, it seems we have birthed a movement. There is new life in our midst and we know that we *are* the Church. Whatever the outcome tonight, know that we are far ahead of where we were.

Thank you all from the bottom of hearts.

In Peace, Hope, Love and Solidarity,

The Catholics for Marriage Equality WA Team

Board Members & Contact Info

Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President
Paula Hills	Vice-President
Delia Vita	Treasurer
Denise Arceneaux	Secretary
Alan Scott	Member, Social chair

DignityUSA Board Member from Seattle

Paula Lavallee	Secretary
Leo Egashira	At large (Publications)

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Newsletter Editor:	Leo N. Egashira
206-723-4759	Legashira@yahoo.com

We provide a safe environment for people to reconcile our God-given gifts of sexual orientation and our Catholic faith through gay-affirming liturgies. Being part of the Dignity/Seattle family means claiming ownership of our faith and living up to the responsibilities of that ownership.

Dignity/Seattle Board Minutes, October 4, 2012

(Edited for publication)

Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. at Delia Vita's house. Dignity prayer was read. All board members were present, except Alan Scott. Minutes were read.

M/M/S/C: To approve the July 9, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's report, July 9, 2012 (Delia Vita)

Checking Acct.

Beginning Balance: \$7,353.05

Deposits:

Collection:	\$200.00
Donation from members & friends	70.00
DignityUSA membership	40.00

Total Deposits: \$310.00

Sub-Total: \$7,663.05

Expenses:

General Expenses:

Liturgy-Stipend (July/Sept):	60.00
Rent – RUMC (June/July):	200.00
Newsletter mailing & printing:	75.16
Summer picnic / Christmas dinner:	75.82
Phone reimbursement:	21.90

Pride Week Bkfst Expenses / Donation

Hall rental	-100.00
Donation to Rosehedge MFW:	700.00
Donation to Bailey-Boushay:	700.00

Total Expenses : \$1,732.88

Ending Balance: \$5,930.17

- Scholarship fund for yearly membership has \$50.00.
- Dignity Convention Fund has \$1,254.05 (\$641.05 from 2012 Pride Week Bkfst.)

Total Available Funds: \$4,626.12

Savings Acct.

Beginning Balance: \$1,602.79

Interest income 0.13

Ending Balance: \$1,602.92

M/M/S/C: To accept the October 4, 2012 financial report as submitted.

Social Committee: (Alan Scott and Delia V.)

Picnic on August 4th was well-attended. Alan will contact Ray regarding Christmas party.

Liturgy Committee: (Denise Arceneaux)

Philip Knowles will preside in October.

Membership Committee:

Paula is still working on fliers.

Old Business:

- Volunteer Opportunities: Four people showed up for Food Lifeline on October 2.

Next volunteer day is Tuesday, Dec, 4th.

- Web Designer: Paula L. still has to contact National to see what we need to do to switch over to DignityUSA's system of web design.
- 2015 Convention: Ideas were given regarding promoting the convention. Paula L. will type up this list of ideas and e-mail to Board Members before the National Convention Committee meeting October 17.
- 40th Anniversary Celebration: Paula L. will ask, in conjunction with publishing the newsletter, anyone who is interested in being on the committee to plan for it to contact her.
- Convention 2013 in Minneapolis: Paula L. asked the Board to think of ways to promote membership and to encourage people to attend the convention. Ideas included using old members' list and social list to contact people, reducing membership fees, and having a packet available for the Christmas party or Mass. Board members were instructed to further work on them for the next meeting.

New Business:

Board position re-appointments: See information box, top left.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 8th at 6:00 p.m. at Delia Vita's house.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Arceneaux

Reprinted from the Seattle Gay News, Nov. 2, 2012

Catholics for Marriage Equality Hold Seattle Vigil

Approve R-74 at St. James Cathedral draws 150
By Leo N. Egashira

Sunday morning, October 28, 2012, started with readers of *The Seattle Times*, *The Everett Herald* and *The Yakima Herald-Republic* surprised by seeing a full-page ad sponsored by Catholics for Marriage Equality-Washington. (*Spokane Spokesman-Review* readers saw a similar ad on October 16.) The day ended Sunday evening with a gathering billed as a "Liturgy of Love," which attracted 150 progressive Catholics and supportive allies outside Seattle's St. James Cathedral. For one hour, the lively and energized crowd sang and prayed, echoing the common themes of (1) It is not in spite of our Catholic faith, but because of its strong tradition of social justice and treating each person with dignity, that we strongly support Marriage Equality, and (2) a substantial majority of the Catholic laity locally and nationwide support Marriage Equality, despite the Catholic bishops' strident opposition to it.

State Senator Ed Murray (together with partner Michael Shiosaki), a Cathedral parishioner and the major force behind all pro-GLBT legislation for the past 17 years, acknowledged the crowd's enthusiastic applause after he was introduced. Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin was compelled to lend HRC's support in-person for what he stated was Washington State Catholics' strong and publicly visible grassroots effort to pass Marriage Equality. He urged attendees to make use of the few days left before the elections to get more of their relatives, neighbors, co-workers and parishioners to vote to approve Referendum 74 and make Marriage Equality the law of the land in Washington State.

Dignity/Vancouver BC/Dignité



Box 3016 Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X5 604/432-1230
dennisl-h@telus.net

Nov. 16, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Worship Liturgy at Gerry W.'s. 604-435-1950

Nov. 24, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Pot-Luck Supper/Social at Dennis L-H's. 604-430-3466

Dec. 1, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.—12:00 noon. Every Saturday during Advent, St. Margaret's Anglican will be offering. "Open Space: An oasis for the mind." It is a time for people to come to the church at 1530 E 22nd Ave, Vancouver, and explore quietly, different spiritual practices which may include everything from drawing to writing to praying to reading.



Chris and Leo



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Nate Gowdy | Seattle Gay News

Chad Griffin, Human Rights Campaign President

Jamie Manson: “The Church at a Crossroads”

Reported by Leo N. Egashira

Theologian and *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) weekly columnist (“Grace on the Margins”), Jaime Manson, and her partner Gretchen, stopped in Seattle last month during a nationwide speaking tour. An engaged audience of 85 progressive Catholics and allies greeted her enthusiastically at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral’s Bloedel Hall on Sunday, October 14th. Jamie first acknowledged and thanked the Protestant space Catholics are welcome to discuss issues. Left unsaid was the obvious: Progressive Catholics would not have been allowed to discuss or question views of the hierarchical church.

Jaime joined the NCR four years ago. “Where do I get content? With the controversies buffeting the Catholic Church and society in general, I have views on everything all the time.”

She briefly went over her own story as reflective of the tensions within the church. People constantly ask, “Why do you remain Catholic, especially as a woman, clerical leader and lesbian? Am I such a masochist?” Jamie grew up in Long Island, descended from Italian Catholic grandparents who immigrated to Brooklyn. Her maternal grandmother wanted to be a nun, but was too poor to pursue the vocation. Once, when she put coins in the church poor box, she was scolded by the priest. She stopped going to church, and set up a “home church.”

At the age of 12, Jamie attended Triduum services. It was at that point that she became enamored and committed to Catholicism & theology. She attended a Catholic high school, taught by Vatican II adherents. At college, she studied Biblical scholarship. When she pursued graduate studies at Yale Divinity School, it was the first time Jamie was exposed to Protestant classmates and Protestant thinking, exposed to a God “who was out there. . . Mind you, I grew up in Long Island, which was Catholic Disneyland.”

“So, I was disoriented by theology class, until I was introduced to Sr. Margaret Farley, who explained, ‘You’re just a Catholic. You have a sacramental view of the world. It

goes back to the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation: *Finite is capable of the Infinite*. Sacrament is a sign of God’s grace—everything can be sacramental.’ As Fr. Andrew Greeley wrote, ‘God is lurking everywhere.’ That is Sacramental imagination.



“The Counter-Reformation reaffirmed the fact that God is in love with us and that humans have intrinsic goodness. This is the opposite of John Calvin’s view that humans are wholly depraved. Only God can redeem people; one cannot redeem oneself. I was recruited by many Protestants to join them, but was unable to give up the sacramental view.

“Sacramental theology gave birth to social-justice teaching; that’s why we have people like Dorothy Day and Teilhard de Chardin. Sacramental theology still makes meaning in our lives. When it is no longer effective, religion needs to be reformed. This is what we’re seeing now in our church.

“Here’s a scary thing: In the U.S., 1-in-6 have no religion. Two-thirds of Catholics are not involved in church.

I worked at a Jesuit parish in NYC that hired GLBT people. St Francis Xavier Church encouraged women to preach. At the same time that liturgy was held upstairs, 900 people were being fed downstairs. When I went downstairs, my gender or orientation did not matter—only ‘presence’ mattered. Compare this to Eucharistic presence . . . this is what Eucharist is about.

“The exclusion of women, of GLBT people, of married priests all seem absurd. It defies our sacramental understanding of the world. The Pope’s statement on pedophilia was marred by his comparing women’s ordination also as a sin against the Eucharist. This is cosmic hubris, or as we say in New York, ‘chutzpah.’

“The hierarchy constantly places limits on God—where God can and cannot be present. It offends our sacramental understanding of our church.

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The Church at a Crossroads
(continued from p.4)

“Evangelicals believe that humans are innately depraved. They also have a literal and selective view of Bible.

“The Roman Catholic Church is becoming anti-intellectual, quite unlike Vatican II’s embrace of science. The last two popes have emphasized teachings against ‘pelvic zones.’ What defines Catholics, according to the hierarchy, are pelvic zone issues!”

At this point, Jamie Manson took a break to answer questions from the audience:

Q: What was it like to come out?

A: My aunt was a lesbian. I came out in Divinity School, which has a strong GLBT presence. That is not surprising, since GLBT are often hurt people, who want to enter the “healing arts.”

This was not an issue until I became an NCR reporter. I was disinvited from speaking engagements than invited. It was a painful situation. Many popular and respected Catholics are in the closet: Coming out invalidates everything you say.

Q: Is it more difficult being a lesbian versus being a woman?

A: It is more difficult to be a woman. I have the same education as a pastor, but I have no authority. Not seeing women on the altar shatters me. Jesus’ most radical thing was empowering women in John’s gospel.

Q: Are the people who discount you always male?

A: No. Clericalism is very much ingrained among the laity.

Q: Do you expect attacks on sacramental theology to continue, for example the Minneapolis archbishop’s full-on attack on marriage equality?

A: It depends on the bishop—how much do they want to turn people off? No-one speaks “truth to power” in the church, so the status quo gets solidified.

Part Two of Jamie Manson’s talk:

“Kenneth Osborne at the University of California-Berkeley stated, ‘We must find Jesus not just in the table of the Eucharist, but in the world around us. If we do not seek Jesus in this table of the world, we really will not find Jesus in the table of the Eucharist.’ This is the sacramental view of the world. Catholics theological tradition finds Jesus everywhere. ‘When you fed the hungry, you fed me. When you clothed the naked, you clothed me.’ This is the genesis of Catholic social justice teaching.

“The Catholic Church is becoming a drag show . . . as

young men aspire to ‘smells & bells’ of the pre-Vatican II church.

“The current investigation of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is an attack on women who have been leaders, who have modeled what leadership should be. Near the Village parish was St. Vincent’s Hospital—ground zero of HIV/AIDS in New York City. The sisters at St. Vincent’s were first to care for and physically contact people with AIDS (PWAs). Why? Because of Matthew 25—they saw Jesus in PWAs. How can you not see Jesus in people who are most vulnerable and broken?

“Women religious have done much work among sex slaves, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence. How can you not understand the need for reproductive care? That’s where their theology developed; that’s how they formed their understanding of Eucharist. The crack-down on the LCWR is so dark and deep. The LCWR show the prophetic voice of the Church. Is there a place for the prophetic voice in the Church? Is there room for intellectual curiosity in the Church? This is a hierarchy doesn’t see Jesus in this table of the world.

“LCWR meetings are 2000 nuns in a room. It is a non-hierarchical, inclusive community with deep connections to the sacramental life of the Church. This is the church of our dreams, something the hierarchy finds threatening.

“While fighting the Church, we need to make sure that we are fed & clothed at the same time. We have to recognize more and more the Church we already are. What is it about the Church that is so meaningful and keeps us as Catholics?

“Young people hunger for community, not necessarily in a traditional parish. How do you get young people in? Share a non-committal meal. So many young people are working in social justice—homeless shelter, domestic violence, environment—without knowing it as social justice.

“Before we get too disenfranchised and disgusted with the church for the hurt it has inflicted and betrayal of Vatican II ideals, we need to find God in “Grace on the Margins” [title of Jamie’s NCR column]. Margins are holy places where prophets dwell, a liminal space.

“We don’t listen to one another; our communication—our communion, our presence to each other—is eroding. When we are present to each other, we form community.

“I want to close this talk with a story about Sr. Louise Lears of St. Louis, who attended a Women’s Ordination Conference ordination. The archbishop placed Sr. Lears under “interdict,” which means she can’t receive sacraments within the diocese.

(continued from p.6)

The Church at a Crossroads
(continued from p.5)

She was devastated and broken. On the first weekend under interdict, she wondered whether she should go to Mass, since that might traumatize the parish. She finally went with her mother. When communion time came, Louise's mother said, 'Come with me.' Mom takes communion, breaks it in half, and gives half to Louise. 'I was the first person to feed you, and I'll feed you now.'

"We have profound sacramental power. You cannot tell God who God can feed. Boil the gospel down to its essence: Everyone needs to be fed and we're obligated to feed each other.

A second and final comment and question period followed:

JM: Vatican II stated, "We are the church." Once you know that, you cannot un-know that.

Barriers to sacraments are being thrown-up; they aren't prizes for being good. The sisters' response has been, "What do you need?" Invite the person first, then let the sacraments transform the person.

JM: The culture of fear so strong in church that priests don't speak up. They risk serious economic disenfranchisement, with no marketable skills, loss of retirement pensions, etc.

JM: Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks were not prophets in a vacuum. They had the support of community. We need to support leaders who speak out, as well as each other.

Leo: I stay in the church, having internalized it as part of self, as much as I am gay and Japanese-American, because I do not want to give power to those who seek to define who is Catholic and who is not.

JM: Young peoples' approval of Marriage Equality is because they have a sacramental view of the world.

Q: Can you comment on the sex-abuse scandal?

A: I can't believe that this church is still going on. No other institution in the Western world could have survived this. In this country, \$2b has been paid out in settlements. "Go away, we can't afford you anyway."

Comment: In a Fairbanks, Alaska church, there is a list of all abusers and the number of abused. "We have to acknowledge it, deal with it and heal the victims."

JM: A declaration of faith [sense of the faithful] has been signed by thousands, but there have been no excommunication or interdict. The problem is that there are too many small groups that have become silo-ized, isolated from

each other. But now that the church is attacking and alienating ordinary people, the people may become energized: Is this the work of the Spirit?

Comment: Call To Action addresses the "movable middle."

Comment: I believe the new liturgy wording is individualistic, not communal. Also "mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa" is moving people away from the sacramental view. JM: Honoring the dignity of the human person and emphasizing the social justice teachings of the church will broaden the image of church to the younger generation.

Jamie Manson's (together with her partner, Gretchen) visit was organized and sponsored by Call To Action—Western Washington:

For more information on CTA-WW:
360-357-6207
information@ctaolympia.org
<http://www.ctaww.org>

**Happy
Thanksgiving!**



Don't forget the hungry during this upcoming holiday season: Volunteer with Dignity/Seattle at Food Lifeline, Tuesday, December 4, 2012. For more information: 206-659-5519.